

Howard University
Counseling Psychology Ph.D. Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the program accredited?

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree in Counseling Psychology program, housed within the Department of Human Development and Psychoeducational Studies (HDPES), is an APA-accredited program designed to train professional psychologists in the Scientist-Practitioner model consistent with APA-accreditation guidelines. Specific questions regarding the program's accreditation should be directed to APA's commission on accreditation.

American Psychological Association

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242
Tel: (202) 336-5979. TDD/TTY: (202) 336-6123.

What do I need to include in my application?

For a complete application, you should submit an online graduate school admissions application, an autobiographical sketch, a research statement/personal statement, official transcript(s), letters of recommendations, sample work, application fee, and additional documents for scholarship applications.

When is the application due?

Each year, the Counseling Psychology program accepts applicants starting **November 1st, for early decisions**, and ends on **December 1st**. There is no rolling admission and there are typically more applicants than available slots available for Howard University's Doctoral Program in Counseling Psychology. Applicants seeking internal funding (i.e. Douglas Scholarship), including those who are McNair Scholars should apply as early as possible as there are additional requirements for these funding sources.

Do I need to take the GRE?

Yes. The GRE is required for every single applicant and considered for admission. Applicants need to provide this information on the graduate school application as well upload copies and have original copies sent to Howard university's Graduate School.

When are Interviews conducted?

Interviews are typically held in early February. Applicants will be notified by the Program Director, Dr. Shareefah Al'Uqdah, in January that they have been selected for an interview through email and informed as to the date and time of their interview with the core faculty. All admitted students are expected to interview.

Is Howard University's Counseling Psychology Program a Ph.D. or Master's degree program?

Howard University's Counseling Psychology Program is a Ph.D. program. Students do not earn a Master's degree en route to the Ph.D.

How many students are typically admitted?

Selection is competitive with approximately 4-8 students admitted each year.

What If I want to speak to a current student about the program?

We encourage applicants to speak with current students and faculty about the program prior to applying. If you are interested in speaking with a student, please contact the program director and they will connect you with a student.

Do I need a Master's degree to apply to the program?

No. It is not required that applicants have a Master's degree prior to applying to the program, however, it is strongly preferred. If you do not have a Master's degree, students should have completed coursework in psychology and we recommend that you take the psychology GRE. Your degree, whether Bachelor's or Master's should also be closely related to Counseling Psychology.

What if I only want to practice clinically?

While students may choose to enter any aspect of the profession they wish to upon completion, Howard University's Counseling Psychology program is a scientist-practitioner program. Students are expected and required to develop strong research and clinical skills. Students should expect to conduct research, publish in peer-reviewed journals, present research at conferences, and involve themselves in the field's professional associations (i.e. The American Psychological Association and The Association of Black Psychologists).

How long is the program?

The program can be completed in 5 years. Students' time to completion varies and is dependent upon the successful proposal and defense of their dissertation; passing the comprehensive exam, the completion of all required coursework, externship, and internship.

What if I want to transfer some credits from my Master's degree program?

The program accepts course transfers but does not accept credit transfers. You may request a waiver of a course in the doctoral program if you have already taken the course in a counseling psychology program from a recognized accredited institution. The Counseling Psychology Program at Howard University will waive up to two (2) courses from a previous, accredited institution with a grade of B or better into the Ph.D. program, dependent on the approval of the Program faculty. Official transcripts, the course syllabus and a Waiver of Required Courses form must accompany any request for a transfer of credits. If a course is waived, an elective may be required in lieu of the waived course.

Do you use a cohort model?

Yes, the program operates on a cohort model. We expect that you will matriculate through the program with your cohort which consists of other admits from your year for the tenure of your time in the program. This allows for you to receive peer support in addition to faculty support.

Does the program have research labs?

Howard University's Counseling Psychology Program has research teams. Teams meet for 1-hour weekly to discuss individual and group research projects (i.e. studies, presentations, and publications). Research teams also provide an introduction on how to conduct, present, and publish research studies. Research teams are made up of faculty along with students from different cohorts to allow for peer to peer and faculty to student mentorship.

Where can I obtain a copy of the Counseling Psychology Program Handbook?

Both The Counseling Psychology Program Handbook and Clinical Handbook will be made available and provided to students during orientation. Applicants may view the PDF Presentation on the program's website for program flowchart and course requirements.

Are their funding opportunities?

Entering students are informed of their eligibility for the McNair Fellowship (if you had McNair funding in undergrad) and the Douglass Scholarship (if you have strong GPA's, an interest in joining the academy, and strong GRE scores). Students are also eligible for Graduate Assistantship after their first year in the doctoral program. For more information on these opportunities, visit the Howard University Graduate School website. Students are strongly encouraged to network within The School of Education, Howard University's campus community, and externally for assistantships, scholarships, fellowships, and grants.

How is my advisor selected?

Students are encouraged to review faculty research interests and descriptions on the program website prior to submitting an application. Students are encouraged to also contact faculty directly to discuss current research projects for further information. Research advisors are selected based on students' stated research interests, faculty research interests, and the overall fit of the faculty and advisee.

What conference opportunities are available for student's to present?

Students are expected to submit yearly proposals and to and present at annual psychological conferences that include The American Psychological Association's Annual Convention, The Association of Black Psychologists Annual Convention, Teacher's College of Columbia University's Winter Roundtable, The National Multicultural Conference and Summit, Howard University Research Week, The Diversity Challenge, and other interdisciplinary conferences specific to the student's research interests.

How many faculty members serve on the dissertation committee?

The dissertation committee is made up of four core faculty members from The Counseling Psychology Program and The Department of Human Development and Psychoeducational Studies, including your advisor. The fifth member must be outside of The School of Education. Students are encouraged to discuss members of their committee with their advisor throughout the dissertation process.

What if I want to collaborate with faculty other than my advisor or those outside of the department?

Students are encouraged to collaborate and work with faculty outside of the department on projects that align with their research and professional goals. Faculty members also have collaborative and productive relationships with faculty members in other programs and departments. Students wishing to engage in collaborations should discuss opportunities with their advisor.

What if I want to stay updated on what the students and faculty are doing in the program?

While The Howard University Counseling Psychology Program strives to keep our program information updated on the program website, for more up to date information about the work of our students and faculty, we encourage all students interested in and currently in the program to follow us on Facebook and Instagram Our information is:

Facebook: @HowardCounselingPsychology

Instagram: @HowardU_CounselingPsych

Who should I contact if I have additional questions?

You should contact the Program Director, Dr. Shareefah N. Al'Uqdah at shareefah.aluqdah@howard.edu. You can also inquire faculty-specific information directly from the faculty member you would like to work with. Please see our program page for faculty email contact.



The School of Education
2441 4th St NW, Washington, DC 20059
Phone: (202) 806-7340